

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
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BILL 1

LLS NO. 25-0247.01 Michael Dohr x4347

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Cell Phone Connectivity Interim Study Committee

BILL TOPIC: Single Point of Contact Wireless Services

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING GOVERNMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE IN SERVICES**
102 **RELATED TO WIRELESS COMMUNICATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Cell Phone Connectivity Interim Study Committee. The bill requires the division of homeland security and emergency management in the department of public safety (division) to develop a single point of contact within the division to:

- Help ensure statewide coverage of the integrated public alert and warning system for wireless emergency alerts and

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

- the emergency alert system;
- Provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions on becoming integrated public alert and warning system certified;
- Provide technical assistance, consistent with the language access in emergency communications study, to implement best practices for inclusive alerting; and
- Offer recommendations to improve current wireless alert systems in Colorado that address language and access needs.

Under current law, the Colorado broadband office (office) has certain duties related to broadband in Colorado. The bill requires the office to also perform those duties for wireless services.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1604, **add**
3 (7) as follows:

4 **24-33.5-1604. Duties and powers of the division - rules.**

5 (7) THE DIVISION SHALL DEVELOP A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT WITHIN
6 THE DIVISION TO:

7 (a) HELP ENSURE STATEWIDE COVERAGE OF THE INTEGRATED
8 PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM FOR WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS
9 AND THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM;

10 (b) PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL JURISDICTIONS ON
11 BECOMING INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM CERTIFIED;

12 (c) PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CONSISTENT WITH THE
13 STUDY CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-20-145 AS IT EXISTED PRIOR
14 TO JULY 1, 2024, TO IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES FOR INCLUSIVE
15 ALERTING; AND

16 (d) OFFER RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE CURRENT WIRELESS
17 ALERT SYSTEMS IN COLORADO THAT ADDRESS LANGUAGE AND ACCESS
18 NEEDS.

1 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-37.5-903, **amend**
2 (2)(b) and (3) as follows:

3 **24-37.5-903. Colorado broadband office - creation -**
4 **responsibilities - gifts, grants, or donations.** (2) (b) The broadband
5 office shall provide technical assistance to applicants seeking grant
6 awards from the grant program or other state or federal grant
7 opportunities offered for deploying broadband AND WIRELESS service.

8 (3) The broadband office shall:

9 (a) Encourage, foster, develop, and strive to improve the
10 availability of affordable, quality broadband AND WIRELESS SERVICE
11 within the state;

12 (b) Serve as the central broadband AND WIRELESS SERVICE policy
13 coordination body for the state;

14 (c) Coordinate with other state agencies, local governments, the
15 federal government, Indian tribes and nations, other relevant broadband
16 AND WIRELESS SERVICE partners, and consumers throughout the state to
17 develop strategies and plans for promoting the deployment of broadband
18 AND WIRELESS SERVICE infrastructure and greater broadband AND
19 WIRELESS SERVICE access;

20 (d) Review existing state broadband AND WIRELESS SERVICE
21 initiatives, policies, and deployment by public or private entities in order
22 to prioritize investment;

23 (e) Develop and implement a statewide plan to encourage
24 cost-effective broadband access and increased broadband usage AND
25 WIRELESS SERVICES, particularly in rural unserved areas and other
26 unserved areas of the state. The broadband office shall submit the
27 statewide plan, and any updated versions of the statewide plan, to the

1 chief information officer, the governor, and the joint technology
2 committee and shall post the statewide plan on its public website. In
3 developing a statewide plan and any other strategies for broadband
4 deployment AND WIRELESS SERVICES, the broadband office shall consider:

5 (I) Partnerships between communities; Indian tribes and nations;
6 nonprofit organizations; local governments; electric utilities as defined in
7 section 40-2-202 (1), cooperative electric associations as defined in
8 section 40-9.5-102, municipally owned utilities, and nonprofit generation
9 and transmission electric corporations or associations; rural
10 telecommunications providers as defined in section 40-15-102 (24.5); and
11 public and private entities;

12 (II) Funding opportunities that allow for the coordination of
13 public funding sources, including local governments, state government,
14 and the federal government, and private funding sources for the purpose
15 of deploying broadband AND WIRELESS SERVICE into rural unserved areas
16 and other unserved areas of the state;

17 (III) Barriers to the deployment, adoption, and utilization of
18 broadband AND WIRELESS SERVICE, including a consideration of the
19 affordability of broadband AND WIRELESS SERVICE; and

20 (IV) Statewide broadband goals and whether statutory definitions
21 for broadband in unserved areas need to be updated in response to
22 advances made in broadband technology.

23 (f) Collect broadband AND WIRELESS SERVICE data to create and
24 update maps that measure the progress of broadband AND WIRELESS
25 SERVICE deployment in the state;

26 (g) Encourage public-private partnerships to increase deployment
27 of broadband AND WIRELESS SERVICE throughout the state; and

1 (h) In furtherance of the purposes set forth in this part 9, seek or
2 apply for, accept, and expend:

3 (I) Gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources; and

4 (II) Money from the federal government for broadband AND
5 WIRELESS SERVICE deployment. The broadband office may seek and apply
6 for all federal funds ~~for which~~ the broadband office is eligible to receive.

7 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
8 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
9 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
10 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
11 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
12 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
13 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
14 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
15 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.